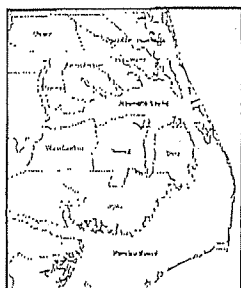


(50)

## Albemarle Resource Conservation &amp; Development Council



Making Things Happen

Conserving Natural Resources, Creating Jobs and Increasing Incomes

RECEIVED FEB 18 2009

Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank,  
Perquimans, Tyrrell, & Washington Counties

## FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: February 18, 2009

TO: Easements Programs Division  
NRCSFROM: Louise Hanson  
Council Member

PHONE:

PHONE: 252-482-7437 x4

FAX: 1-202-720-9689

FAX: 252-482-3428

SUBJECT: WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM COMMENTS

Number of pages: 2 (including cover page)

Easements Programs Division,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Wetlands Reserve Program Comments,  
P.O. 2890, Room 6819-S,  
Washington, DC 20013.

February 17, 2009

To whom it may concern:

RE: Interim-Final Rule for Wetlands Reserve Program, Docket Number NRCS  
IFR-08013

As a Us Army Corps Certified Wetland Delineator, I strongly encourage NRCS to include riparian wetland forests as "eligible land" in the final rule for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Northeast North Carolina contains thousands of acres of riparian wetland forests, which help mitigate floods, protect water quality, provide critical habitat for many important species of plants and animals, and provide unique opportunities for recreation. A program like the WRP provides a financially attractive option to landowners for conserving their riparian wetland forests, which are directly linked to the quality of life and economy of the region. Riparian wetland forests were included as "eligible land" in the WRP under the previous Farm Bill and I strongly encourage you to again include them in the final rule for the WRP under the new Farm Bill. Because of strong landowner interest in participating in the WRP, I believe that it could be one of the most effective USDA-NRCS programs in the region. Please consider including the following language in the final rule for the WRP: "Riparian areas along streams and other waterways are eligible provided that a series of easements are being assembled to form a continuous corridor and the likelihood of multiple landowner participation over time is great."

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Louise I. Hanson

Dare County S&WC Board Supervisor

Albemarle Region RC& D Council Member